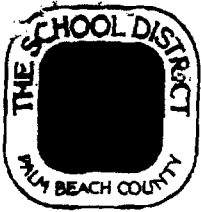


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THE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
OF PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA  
DEPARTMENT OF MULTIMEDIA SERVICES  
3352 FOREST HILL BOULEVARD, SUITE C-206  
WEST PALM BEACH, FL 33406-5869  
(561) 434-8771 FAX (561) 434-8814

DR. JOAN P. KOWAL  
SUPERINTENDENT  
OF SCHOOLS

CC 96-45

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November 7, 1996

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

**FACSIMILE MEMORANDUM**

TO: Joint Federal/State Board to the Federal Communications Commission  
re: 1996 Telecommunications Act

FROM: Vernon A. Pickup-Crawford, Director  
Multimedia Services

SUBJECT: Attached School Board Resolution

The School Board of Palm Beach County, representing over 134,000 students and 131 schools, unanimously adopted the attached Board Report and Resolution concerning access rates to the Internet that would be charged schools and libraries.

It is our understanding that the Joint Board will convene tomorrow, November 8, 1996, to consider recommendations to the full Federal Communications Commission. We understand that the FCC, itself, has set May, 1997, for final rate approval.

Our School Board urges Joint Board consideration of our position so that all students may have equal access to this increasingly important source of information and not face discrimination on the basis of economics by school or school district.

If you have any questions, please let me know. We appreciate your consideration.

/vap-c

Attachment

cc: Secretary Richard Riley, U.S. Department of Education  
Members, Florida Congressional Delegation  
Florida School Boards Association  
Florida Association of School Administrators  
Dr. Joan P. Kowal, Superintendent

cc: Dr. Joan P. Kowal  
SUPERINTENDENT

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
Agenda Item #031611Board Meeting Date: November 6, 1996

## SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PALM BEACH COUNTY BOARD AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

### CONSIDER RESOLUTION TO URGE FREE OR SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCED RATES BY THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION FOR INTERNET ACCESS BY SCHOOLS AND LIBRARIES

I recommend the School Board adopt the attached resolution that urges the advisory Joint Board to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to recommend free or substantially reduced rates for Internet access by schools and libraries and that urges the FCC to adopt such rates as soon as possible; and authorize distribution of the Resolution to the Florida Congressional Delegation and appropriate state educational organizations for support.

- The Telecommunications Act of 1996, signed by President Clinton on February 8, 1996, includes provisions for Internet access by schools and libraries, and is now before the Federal Communications Commission for rule implementation;
- Presently, any school or library seeking access to the Internet pays a provider fee, directly or indirectly, for telecommunications linkage;
- The attached resolution supports U.S. Education Secretary Richard Riley's testimony before the advisory Joint Board to the FCC for free or substantially reduced access fees;
- Such fee reductions will enable more schools and libraries, as well as school districts as a whole, to provide all students and teachers with access to the rapidly expanding wealth of educational and research information available through Internet.

Attachment

BOARD GOAL/PRIORITY/BELIEF: Beliefs 1-5, Priorities 1,2,4,5,6

CONTACT: Mary Ann DuPont (MADUPON)/Vernon Pickup-Crawford (CRAWFOR)

FUND SOURCE: N/A

Dept. #	Dept. Name	Budgeted	Amount Used	Balance	Requested Expenditure

## CONSENT AGENDA ITEM

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## SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PALM BEACH COUNTY

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

### RESOLUTION

**Whereas**, schools and libraries will be major users of the Information Superhighway, commonly referred to as *Internet*, for educational reference and research; and

**Whereas**, a major component of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, passed by Congress and signed into law by President Clinton on February 8, 1996, is to develop a plan for Internet access by schools and libraries; and

**Whereas**, Education Secretary Richard Riley has urged that, "every effort should be made to give our nation's schools and libraries free access to the new telecommunications world that is now emerging....," and

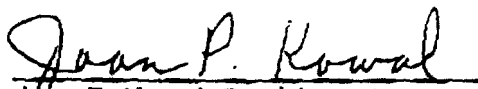
**Whereas**, A "Joint Board," comprised of three members of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), four State Public Utility Commissioners and one consumer utility advocate, will meet on November 8, 1996, to recommend action to the FCC on the issue of whether schools and libraries will receive substantially discounted rates in order to access Internet; and

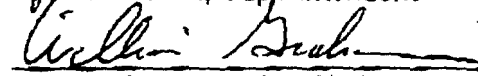
**Whereas**, individual schools in the Palm Beach County School District may need future additional access above that currently provided free through the Florida Information Resource Network; and


**Whereas**, the Southeast Florida Library Information Network, of which the Palm Beach County School District is a member, would experience savings through such discounts; and

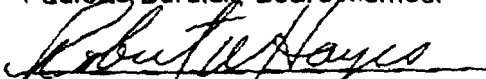
**Whereas**, Secretary Riley has testified before the Joint Board to urge members to ensure that schools and libraries will be able to afford connection to the wealth of educational resources;

**Now therefore**, be it adopted by the School District of Palm Beach County, Florida, in session on November 6, 1996, that the School Board urges the Joint Board to recommend that the Federal Communications Commission adopt a rule of free or substantially reduced rates for public schools and libraries to access the Internet for educational and research purposes; further, the School District urges the Federal Communications Commission to approve such rates to take effect as soon as possible to ensure equal access by all students and citizens; and, further, the School Board authorizes the Superintendent to distribute a copy of this resolution to the Florida Congressional Delegation, the Florida School Boards Association and other statewide educational and library organizations to seek their support in this matter. Done this 6th day of November, 1996.

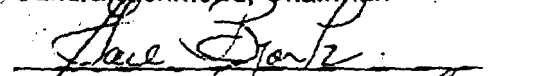
  
Joan P. Kowal, Superintendent

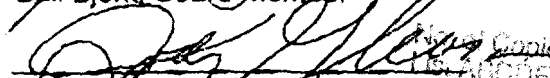
  
William Graham, Vice Chairman

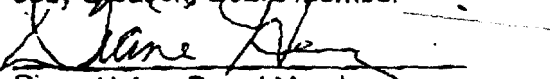
  
Pauletta Burdick, Board Member



  
Sandra Richmond, Chairman

  
Gail Bjork, Board Member

  
Jody Gleason, Board Member

  
Diana Heinz, Board Member

Handwritten notes: "Handwritten copies rec'd 11/8/96" and "11/8/96"